

Message Text

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11/44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-03 SY-03 OC-01

CCO-00 OMB-01 IO-03 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 /062 W

----- 028801

R 261606Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2994

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1773

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 1773 VICE 1772

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PL, WB

SUBJECT: SIGNS OF INCREASED POLISH MAIL CENSORSHIP

1. WE ARE ADVISED THAT SINCE BEGINNING OF AUGUST 1976
REDUCTION HAS BEEN OBSERVED OF BETWEEN 40 AND 50 PERCENT
IN PERSONAL MAIL ARRIVING IN WEST BERLIN FROM POLAD.
ADDITIONALLY TRANSIT TIME OF SUCH PERSONAL MAIL HAS HAS
ARRIVED IN THIS PERIOD HAS INCREASED FROM NORMAL FOUR OR
FIVE DAYS TO TEN DAYS OR LONGER. QUANTITY AND TRANSIT
TIMES OF PRINTED MATTER, BUSINESS MAIL, POST CARDS AND
REGISTERED MAIL BETWEEN POLAND AND WEST BERLIN HAS
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REMAINED NORMAL IN SAME PERIOD, AND NO CHANGES HAVE

BEEN OBSERVED IN TELEX TRAFFIC.

2. US ARMY INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS FAMILIAR WITH MAIL PATTERNS HERE BELIEVE INCREASED TRANSIT TIME AND REDUCTION IN QUANTITY OF PERSONAL MAIL FROM POLAND TO WEST BERLIN IS INDICATIVE OF INCREASED POLISH CENSORSHIP. SIMILAR CHANGES IN MAIL PATTERNS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED DURING PREVIOUS PERIODS OF UNREST IN WARSAW PACT STATES OR DURING TIMES OF SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL TENSION SUCH AS EVENTS IN POLAND IN EARLY 1971 AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968. WE ASSUME DIFFICULTIES OVER FOOD PRICES AND RATIONING PROVIDE PBACKGROUND TO CURRENT POLISH ACTIONS.
GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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